

September 16, 2008

DHS Steps Up to Help Lead the NIEM Program Office

As one of the members of the Executive Steering Committee for NIEM, I am pleased to announce to the NIEM community that as of September 15, 2008, Donna Roy from the U. S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will begin serving as the Acting NIEM Executive Director. The program has been, and continues to be, a joint DOJ and DHS partnership. In the past 12 months, we have seen significant growth in the utilization of the standards in areas outside the law enforcement domain. NIEM is also a key piece of the federal government's efforts to share data consistent with the President's National Strategy for Information Sharing¹ and the 9-11 Act² passed by Congress in January 2007.

Donna currently serves as the Director of the Enterprise Data Management with DHS, where her responsibilities include formulating the department's data management and information architecture strategy and acting as the lead executive within DHS for the adoption of NIEM.

She has dramatically increased the adoption of NIEM across numerous DHS investment technology programs within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD), Science & Technology (S&T), Transportation Security Administration (TSA), U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (CIS), and the US-VISIT Program. Through her leadership, DHS has developed or will develop more than 65 Information Exchange Package Documents (IEPDs), standardizing the exchanges between high-impact systems across the DHS mission space.

With her extensive background in Information Technology Systems, Data Architecture and Management, and Geospatial Information Architectures, she is well suited to help lead NIEM into the future.

Jeremy Warren has admirably served as the interim Executive Director since Kshemendra Paul moved to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). Jeremy will continue to be active in NIEM in his ongoing role as the Chief Technology Officer at DOJ. I also want to take this opportunity to make sure the NIEM community has seen the latest news on the exciting developments with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) and its development of the UCore 2.0 standard. See http://www.gcn.com/print/27_20/46900-1.html?page=1.

¹<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071031-10.html>.

²Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (HR 1).

Jeremy, Donna, and their teams were instrumental in supporting the DoD in the development of UCore 2.0. The involvement of the NIEM program in the requirements, design, and implementation of UCore 2.0 ensured its compatibility with NIEM and LEXS. My hope is that this impressive effort of standardizing information exchange across four large federal organizations will lead to the success of many cross-federal information sharing initiatives for many years to come.

I want to thank the leadership team at BJA, DOJ's Global members, and especially all the practitioners and implementers throughout the country for their continued support and dedication to NIEM. I also want to welcome the new DHS CIO, Richard Mangogna, to the Executive Steering Committee and thank him for his leadership and support for data standardization across the law enforcement and homeland security communities.

Vance Hitch
Chief Information Officer
U.S. Department of Justice